

Tripadvisor: Hotel Beacon Renovations (2007–2009)

[triptriptrip](#) wrote a review Sep 2008

United Kingdom

5 contributions; 6 helpful votes





Great Hotel - Would recommend it for everyone

I took my parents to NY to celebrate 50 years of marriage so naturally only wanted the best for them. We booked the hotel through our travel agent, after reading previous reviews first.

The Hotel is in a very secure part of Manhattan. I was a little concerned initially about the location as on three previous visits i have stayed South of Columbus Circus, usually at hotels between 33rd and 50th. I thought I might have selected a hotel a little too far away from the main tourist attractions. However the transportation network is excellent. We were at Rockefeller Centre within 20 minutes of stepping on the train at 72nd and Broadway....including walking time.

We arrived at the hotel at about 2pm and alas our room was not ready. So we had to sit

in the lobby and wait for 40 minutes. After a long flight that was a bit disappointing. However everything was uphill from there.

My parents and i shared an room with excellent facilities, including kitchenette, living area, two televisions and a host of facilities we didn't actually get to use. Our room was facing broadway and i have to say that it was extremely quiet for the most part. There was, at times, some traffic noise, but to be honest, it was not too intrusive and did not affect our enjoyment of the holiday.

The room has a safe which is almost idiot proof and secure. Our most valuable items - including passports, insurance documents etc - were placed there.

The beds were perhaps a tad small for double beds. It was great for me of course as I had one to myself. I think my parents could have done with a little more room.

The room service was excellent. You are given the option of having your towels and bed linen changed every day, or to have them changed less frequently. This, I believe, is a concession to the more environmentally aware visitors.

Opposite the hotel is a small market, ideally placed for visitors that want to do their own cooking. However there is a restaurant next to the hotel which serves excellent breakfast, lunch and evening meals. We used the market - after the first few days of finding our feet - to purchase our breakfast - cereal, milk and bagels. This was a lot cheaper than buying breakfast and is heartily recommended.

The subway is three blocks away on 72nd and Broadway. From there the whole of the main tourist spots were accessible. My advice is to get a metrocard which will allow you to travel on bus and train alike.

It should be noted that the front of the hotel had scaffolding due to some renovation work on certain floors that was over-running. However we were not inconvenienced or affected by this work.

The staff were friendly but not in our faces...None of this sometimes false 'have a nice day' stuff, but still good at anticipating needs. My advice is to use the concierge to flag down taxis and to provide advice about tourist haunts. We were too reticent to do this - it's a British thing alas - and missed out on some useful service and advice given to others. You can grab a subway map from the concierge desk. This is helpful..

The hotel does arrange transportation to the airport(s). However the cost is a tad expensive when compared with some other companies. If we go again we'll make our own arrangements and save some bucks! The service provided though by the airport bus arranged could not be faulted.

The hotel was frequented by a lot of Europeans. We heard German, French, Italian, Spanish and I believe Polish spoken there. There were even a couple of Australians. So

it has a mixture of people.

In short, I would have no hesitation in recommending this hotel to all and sundry.

Date of stay: September 2008

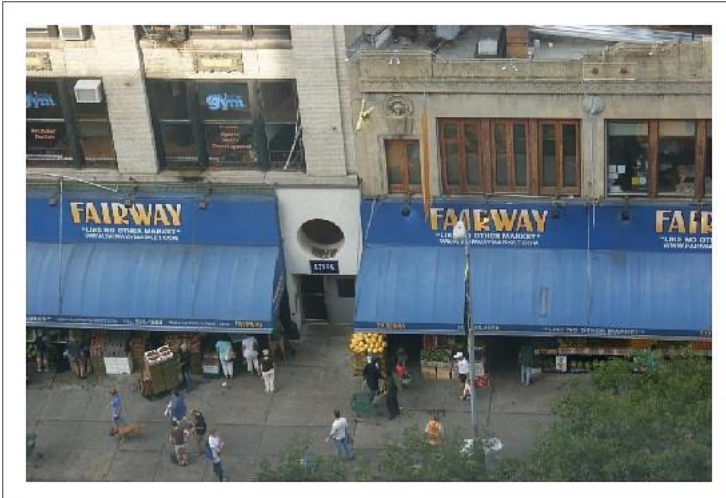
Trip type: Traveled with family

[Bigted27](#) wrote a review Sep 2007

West Sussex, United Kingdom

50 contributions; 47 helpful votes





Quiet oasis

First impressions were not that good: the building was covered in scaffolding and the reception area looked a bit 'dated'. Once in our room we found a quiet oasis: no traffic noise, just the usual rumbling air conditioning unit. The room was spacious with a small kitchenette area (microwave, fridge & coffee maker); two American Queen sized beds and bathroom. All clean and functional.

There seemed to be few restaurants close to the hotel except for the Café Viand, next door but in the same building. We eat here several times: breakfasts and evening meals and were never disappointed. The staff were friendly and efficient; food was plentiful and good quality.

If you wanted to self-cater there was a supermarket directly across the street, it seemed to stock everything.

The hotels location was a plus: a short walk from 72nd St Subway station and about 5 minutes walk from Central Park.

Date of stay: June 2007

Trip type: Traveled as a couple

[Librarian1998](#) wrote a review Aug 2007

Albany, NY

76 contributions; 82 helpful votes

Roomy & excellent location for families

The Hotel Beacon is not fancy. My daughter was disappointed when we pulled up and there was scaffolding covering the entrance of the hotel. However, it has everything a siteseeing family could need. The rooms are big by NYC standards - my kids had plenty of room to spread out their games.

The neighborhood is great - a real residential neighborhood, as opposed to the Times Square area or the Wall Street area where we sometimes stay. There are plenty of markets, restaurants and stores at all price levels and tastes. We had breakfast a few times at the Tasty Cafe near the subway station (Broadway and 72nd, I think). This is a counter service place, but the food is great and quick, and there is a used book seller that sets up his stand right outside the door who encouraged the kids to look through his wares.

Because the neighborhood is not as crowded and fast-paced as Midtown, we did not have to hold tightly onto our kids. They could enjoy looking around at a relaxed pace. Also, there is a fun playground with a Western theme at Amsterdam and 77th that my kids wanted to return to again and again.

The concierge staff were very helpful. (They were the ones who directed us to the playground). Anything they couldn't answer, they looked up quickly for us. We didn't use them for anything high-end, like getting theater tickets, so don't know how they would do with that.

A small thing, but a nice surprise was the toiletries in the room. Most hotels have a sign saying to ask the staff if there is anything you have forgotten, but Hotel Beacon anticipated everything for us, which is much better. The toiletries included things like cotton swabs and a toothbrush!

We have stayed at the Hotel Excelsior in the same neighborhood. The Excelsior seems more up-to-date and upscale than the Beacon for a similar price. However, I preferred the Beacon because the staff was much more friendly and helpful, and the location is slightly closer to stores, restaurants and the subway. And even though the Beacon is in a busier location, we did not have any problem with noise in our room.

Date of stay: August 2007

Trip type: Traveled with family